

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

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TAGS: AORG OCON IAEA TECH ENRG

SUBJECT: IAEA AD HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR POWER
PLANT SAFETY AND RELIABILITY

1. MISSION HAS OBTAINED INFORMALLY FROM AGENCY FOLLOWING
RECOMMENDATIONS (UNNECESSARY WORDS OMITTED) OF SUBJECT COM-
MITTEE, WHICH MET AT AGENCY'S HEADQUARTERS APRIL 1-5, 1974:

A. COMMEND AND ENCOURAGE AGENCY IN ITS RESOLVE TO DEVELOP AS
FIRST STEP COHERENT SET OF STANDARDS FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
FOR WATER REACTORS.

B. AGENCY SHOULD CONTINUE TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS AND PRO-
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CEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SAFETY STANDARDS. (THESE

MEASURES WILL CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO GENERAL ADVANCEMENT IN LEVEL OF SAFETY IN OPERATION OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS. ADDITIONALLY THEY WILL CONTRIBUTE TO PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF NUCLEAR PLANTS.)

C. AGENCY SHOULD TAKE STEPS TO INCREASE ITS STAFF AS MEANS OF ENHANCING EFFICIENCY IN EFFORTS TO DEVELOP STANDARDS AND, ADDITIONALLY, TO PROVIDE CAPABILITY FOR RESPONDING TO REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN NUCLEAR SAFETY FROM MEMBER STATES IN FUTURE.

D. AGENCY STAFF SHOULD MANAGE EFFORTS IN DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS SUCH THAT IMPACT ON PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS OF MEMBER STATES WILL BE MINIMIZED TO EXTENT PRACTICABLE.

E. IN PARTICULAR, MAXIMUM COLLECTION, ORGANIZATION AND TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENTS AND OTHER PREPARATORY MEASURES SHOULD BE TAKEN TO MAXIMIZE EFFICIENCY OF EFFORTS OF GROUPS FROM MEMBER STATES.

F. CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO USE OF SELECTED CONSULTANT EXPERT OR EXPERT UTILITY PERSONNEL IN CODE, GUIDE OR MANUAL DRAFTING TEAMS.

G. SCHEDULES OF DRAFTING TEAMS, TECHNICAL REVIEW PANELS AND SENIOR EXPERT ADVISORS SHOULD BE SYNCHRONIZED TO MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE.

H. AGENCY SHOULD ESTABLISH ASAP UNDERSTANDING AT NECESSARY LEVEL WITH MEMBER STATES REGARDING AVAILABILITY OF EXPERTS TO ASSIST IN THESE EFFORTS TO DEVELOP SET OF STANDARDS.

I. AT EARLIEST FEASIBLE TIME, AGENCY SHOULD PLAN GENERATION OF NECESSARY USERS' MANUAL, AND ESTIMATE RESOURCES REQUIRED. USE SHOULD BE MADE OF GROUPS DRAFTING AND REVIEWING GUIDES IN ESTABLISHING NEEDS FOR SPECIFIC MANUALS AND IN FORMULATING THESE PLANS AND ESTIMATES.

J. SOME OF EXPERTS CONSIDER THAT APPROACH ADOPTED IN PRESENT REPORT IS ONLY ONE AMONG SEVERAL WAYS OF SOLVING PROBLEM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RAISED BY AGENCY AND ARE OF OPINION THAT IT ENTAILS NUMBER OF DISADVANTAGES, BOTH BECAUSE OF EXTENSIVE MEASURES WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT PROGRAM AND IN VIEW OF DIFFICULTIES WHICH IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM WILL CAUSE OWING TO DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PRACTICES AT PRESENT FOLLOWED BY DIFFERENT MEMBER STATES. THESE EXPERTS ACCORDINGLY BELIEVE THAT OTHER, EASIER METHODS OF IMPLEMENTATION COULD HAVE BEEN RECOMMENDED. ONE SUCH METHOD, WHICH WOULD TAKE INTL

ACCOUNT EXISTENCE OF NATIONAL SYSTEMS, WOULD BE TO COLLATE THEM WITH VIEW TO THEIR PRESENTATION TO COUNTRIES CONCERNED. AN ADVANTAGE OF THIS APPROACH WOULD BE THAT, WHILE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT PRESENT REALITIES, IT WOULD OFFER BEST SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BY ENABLING THEM TO APPLY

REGULATIONS WHICH ARE CONSISTENT AND MOST APPROPRIATE FOR DEALING WITH THOSE PROBLEMS.

2. FULL COMMITTEE REPORT SHOULD BE ISSUED SHORTLY.

3.COMMENT: LANGUAGE OF PARA J WAS ADDED AT SPECIFIC URGING OF FRENCH AND FRG REPS, AFTER LENGTHY DEBATE OVER APPROACH BEING RECOMMENDED. NEGATIVE FRENCH ATTITUDE TO THIS EXERCISE WAS APPARENT FROM BEGINNING, SINCE THEY CHOSE TO SNED "NON-EXPERT" TO MEETING. FRG SOMEWHAT LESS EMPHATIC BUT STILL NEGATIVE VIEWS AT MEETING BECAME KNOWN ONLY AFTER DETAILED DISCUSSIONS BEGAN. IN BOTH CASES, IT APPEARED (ALTHOUGH NOT RPT NOT STATED) THAT THERE WAS CONCERN THAT EXERCISE WOULD ULTIMATELY RESULT IN U.S. REACTOR SAFETY STANDARDS BEING "IMPOSED" ON REST OF WORLD. A FACTOR IN THIS ATTITUDE MAY HAVE BEEN RECOGNITION BY FRENCH THAT THEY WOULD PROBABLY NOT RPT NOT BE ABLE TO SPARE SUFFICIENT MANPOWER TO PARTICIPATE IN DRAFTING OF AGENCY STANDARDS. THEY MAY HAVE ALSO BEEN CONCERNED THAT DEVELOPMENT OF AGENCY SAFETY STANDARDS MIGHT EXPOSE WEAKNESS OF THEIR OWN INTERNAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (REGULATORY) BODIES. FRG SITUATION MAY BE SIMILAR IN THIS RESPECT, GIVEN THAT FRG STATES EXERCISE PRIMARY NUCLEAR HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATORY ROLE WITHIN THEIR OWN JURISDICTIONS, WHICH MAY RESULT IN INCONSISTENCIES BETWEEN STATES. UNDERSTAND TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES ON FEDERAL LEVEL WORKING IS ONLY ABOUT 40. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, FRG REPS SEEMED MUCH MORE WILLING TO APPRECIATE RATIONALE FOR AGENCY'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPROACH, WHICH WAS SUPPORTED BY REMAINING EXPERTS ATTENDING MEETING. AND WE BELIEVE THEY CAN BE PERSUADED TO GO ALONG, PROVIDED FRENCH DO NOT RPT NOT ESCALATE THEIR NEGATIVE VIEWS TO LEVEL OF FORMAL OPPOSITION AT JUNE BOARD OF GOVERNORS, WHEN COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE TO BE CONSIDERED. WE UNDERSTAND DG AND DDG CHERNILIN ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THIS P
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